



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



226489

DEC 01 2000

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

SE-5J

VIA FACSIMILE (314) 567-0602
AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Rich Miller
HBE Corporation
11330 Olive Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63141

RE: Walkover Survey of Parking Lot at 319 East Illinois, Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Miller:

On October 11-12, 2000, U.S. EPA conducted a radiation walkover survey of your parking lot at 319 East Illinois to determine whether there were any elevated radiation readings at the surface that might indicate the presence of subsurface radioactive materials. There were no highly elevated radiation readings. There were several areas, mostly on the far south side of the lot, that appeared to be distinct from background. These were in the central region of the most southerly parking spaces and also in the central region north of these parking spaces. Overall, the southern third of the lot was more elevated than the rest. The most elevated regions were the planters.

Our procedure for conducting the walkover survey was to first walk, holding the probe about 6 inches off the ground, the entire area along parallel lines about 3 - 4 feet apart, assessing background levels by comparing the lowest readings and looking for spots and regions of elevated radiation levels. We then took, for the record, 30 second counts on contact with the ground, at regular intervals (in the center of each parking space and down the centerline of the driveways) to quantify the exposure environment. We also took exposure rate readings in the attendant's booth.

Readings, exclusive of the planters, ranged from 1,472 per 30 second count to 3,853 per 30 second count.

Within the limits of this surface survey, there were not any "hot spots" in your parking lot. There was a region in the southern-central area of the lot that had higher readings than the rest of the lot at levels that approach our common field indicators for material no longer considered background. This indicates

radioactive material below the asphalt, but it is not possible to label this contamination from this survey as natural radioactive materials could give similar readings. The higher levels in the planters may be an artifact of fertilizer, which we would not consider contamination.

No area of this lot poses an immediate health and safety concern. The levels in the attendant's both are consistent with normal background levels. Nonetheless, this survey should not be interpreted as an absolute confirmation that there is no radioactive contamination present. Shielding by the asphalt and any fill will reduce count rates and emissions from any underlying radioactive material could be difficult or impossible to measure.

If you decide to remove the asphalt, contact us prior to its removal so that we may observe your radiation surveillance and sampling for radionuclide identification and quantification or take our own measurements and sampling. Radiation surveillance should be conducted under a health and safety plan with disposal of any radioactive materials at a regulated disposal facility. Please be advised that a neighboring parking lot owner removed about 200 truckloads of potentially contaminated material prior to conducting a radiation survey. The radiation survey identified radioactive contamination on-site and the property owner is now in the process of characterizing the material disposed at a landfill. In addition, construction at the site was shut down until U.S. EPA approved the property owners' health and safety plan and work plan.

Specific detection equipment used during the October 11-12, 2000 survey were a probe called a Bicron FIDLER Model G5 (S/N B089D), Ludlum Model 19 (S/N 66599), and the Ludlum Model 2221 survey meter (S/N 115168). These meters were calibrated on February 2, 2000, and February 3, 2000, respectively.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (312) 886-3601, or Fred Micke, On-Scene Coordinator, at (312) 886-5123, or Larry Jensen, Health Physicist, at (312) 886-5026. Please direct any legal questions to Mary Fulghum, Associate Regional Counsel, at (312) 886-4683.

Sincerely,



Vernetta Simon
On-Scene Coordinator

cc: Naren Prasad, City of Chicago - Department of Environment

bcc: Mary Fulghum C-14J
Larry Jensen, SE-5J
Derrick Kimbrough, SE-5J
Cathleen Martwick, C-14J
Fred Micke, SE-5J
Linda Nachowicz, SE-5J
Debbie Regel, SE-5J